

WESTERN GOVERNORS' Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool



WESTERN
GOVERNORS'
ASSOCIATION

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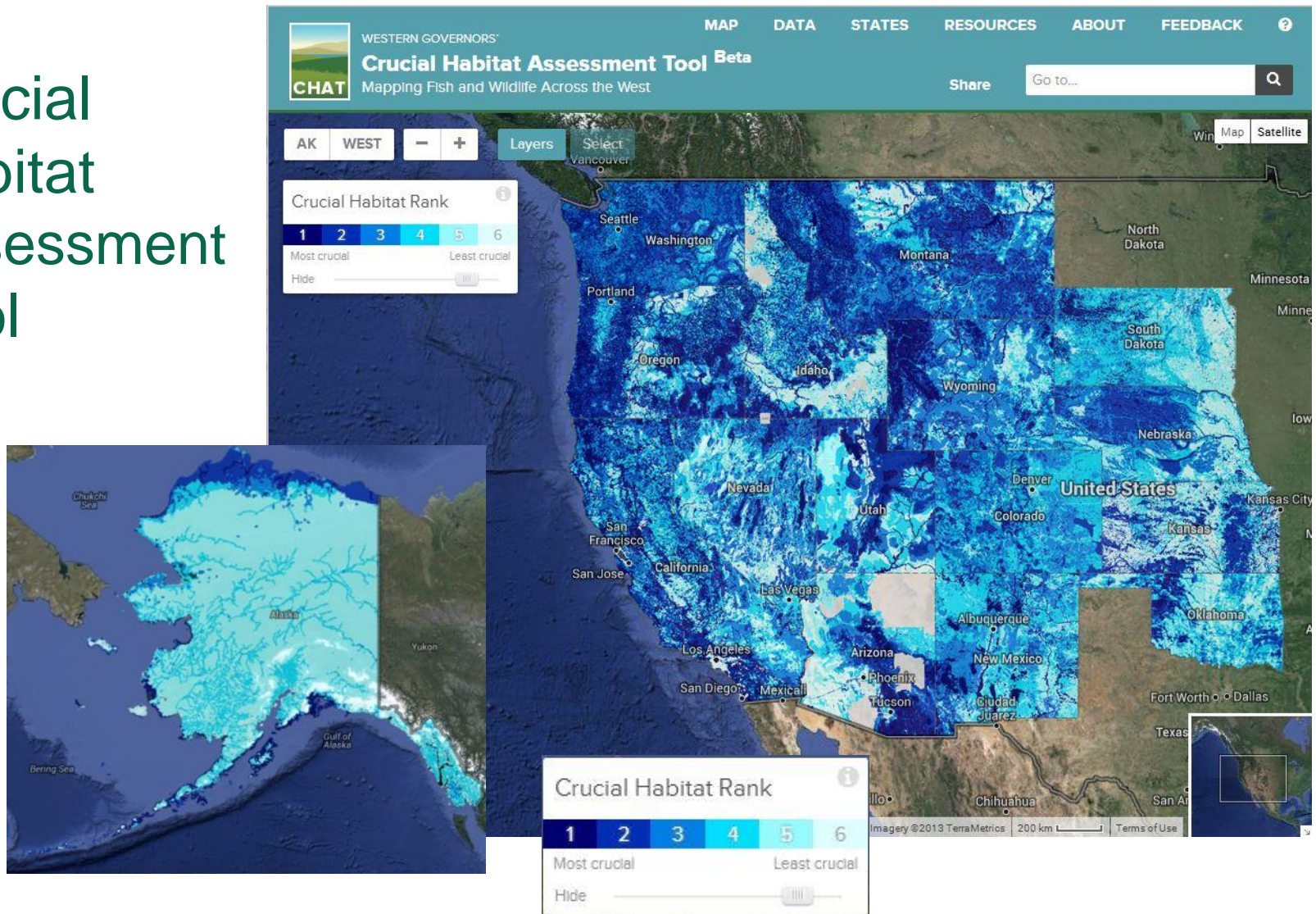
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Western Governors' CHAT

Online at westgovchat.org

Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool



Policy Directive

“The Governors encourage widespread use of CHATs by industry, the public, and state and federal agencies. Planners at all levels in the public and private sectors can use state CHATs as a “first look” to help identify where states’ wildlife assets are located.”

**-WGA Policy Resolution,
State Wildlife Science, Data and Analysis**

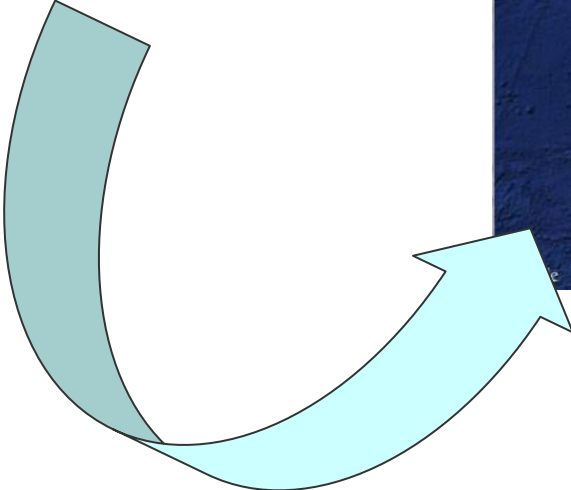


Governor John Hickenlooper (CO), WGA Chairman, introduces the Western Governors' CHAT to the public at WGA's Winter Meeting on December 12, 2013. Hickenlooper is joined by (L-R) Gov. Brian Sandoval (NV), Gov. Gary R. Herbert (UT), Gov. Steve Bullock (MT), Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell, and Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter (ID).

Key Points



- **Collaborative:** A cross-boundary tool, guided by the work of the Western Governors' Wildlife Council representing 16 states.
- **Useful:** Pre-planning tool for energy, transportation, and land use planning.
- **Non-Regulatory:** The WG CHAT simply gives a 30,000-foot “first look” at wildlife habitat.

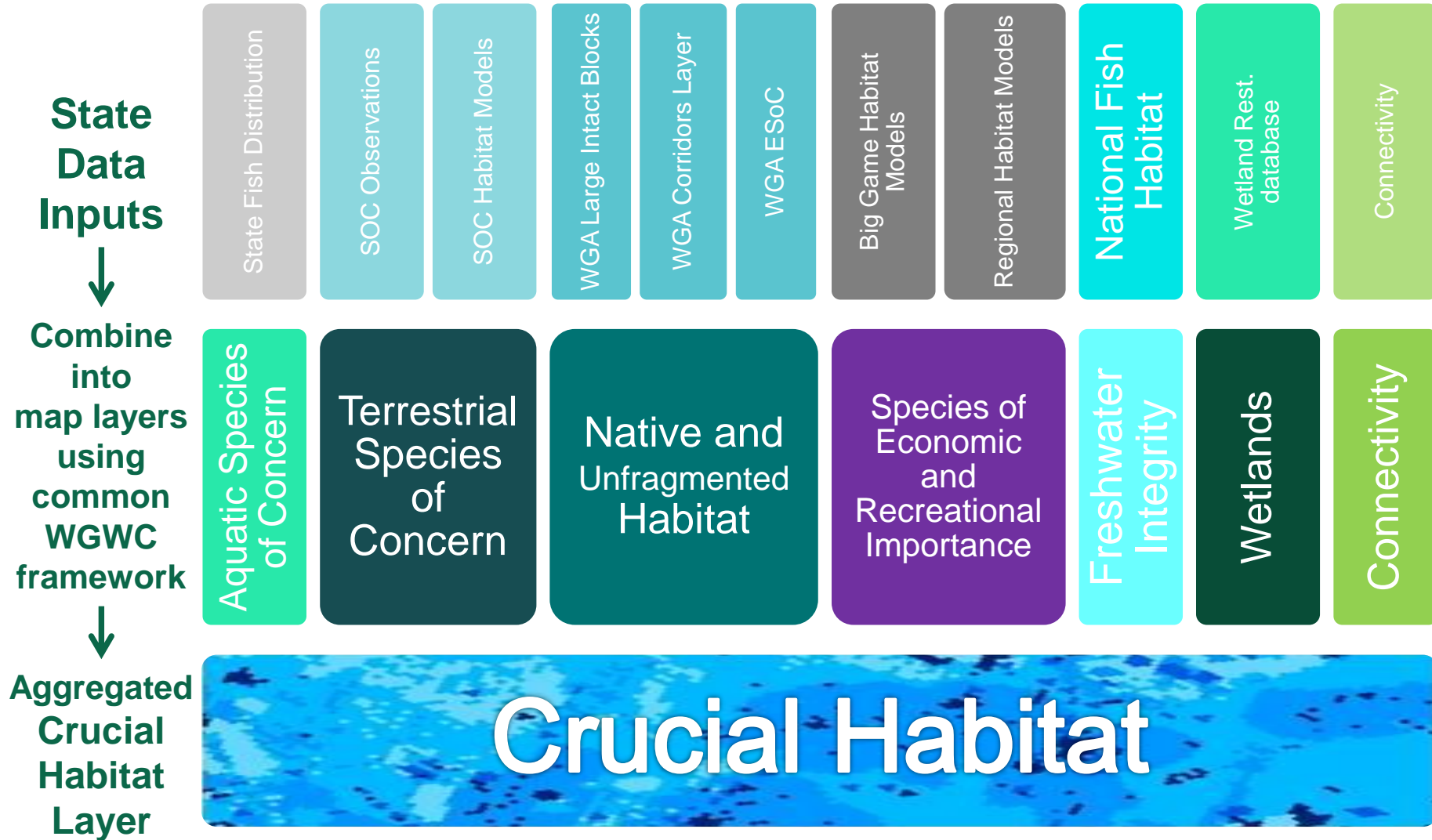


NOTE: HabiMap™ Arizona and the Western Governors' CHAT do not show tribal lands in Arizona.

Available State CHATs

- HabiMap™ **Arizona**
- **California** Areas of Conservation Emphasis (ACE)
- **Kansas** Natural Resource Planner
- **Montana** Crucial Areas Planning System (CAPS)
- **Nevada** Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool (NV CHAT)
- **New Mexico** Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool (NM CHAT)
- **Oregon's** COMPASS
- **Washington** Priority Habitat Species (PHS On Line)
- **Wyoming** Interagency Spatial Database & Online Management (WISDOM)
- Five-state **Southern Great Plains** CHAT for Lesser Prairie Chicken

What is *Crucial Habitat*?



A State-Driven Map



- State wildlife experts decided the **wildlife priorities** to address.
- State-generated **data** and models.
- **Habitat ranking scale** set by state experts according to state priorities.
- States will **update** data.

Agreeing to a Common Framework

- Defining “crucial habitat” and “important wildlife corridors.”
- Identifying categories of data that constitute “crucial habitat.”
- Finding a flexible standard for data aggregation and map presentation.



State-Federal Dialogue



Interior Secretary Sally Jewell joins Western Governors Brian Sandoval (NV), Gary R. Herbert (UT), John Hickenlooper (CO), and Steve Bullock (MT) at the launch of the Western Governors' CHAT.

- 2009 MOU between WGA and the Secretaries of Agriculture, Energy and the Interior created framework for partnership during the development of CHAT (now expired)
- New projects to help build user base and continue to improve CHAT with National LCCs and Federal Highway Administration
- Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell joined the Governors for the public launch of CHAT

Transportation and Conservation Planning with CHAT

- Steering committee of state and federal transportation experts and state wildlife professionals
- Questionnaire of transportation professionals to assess current uses and future needs regarding wildlife data

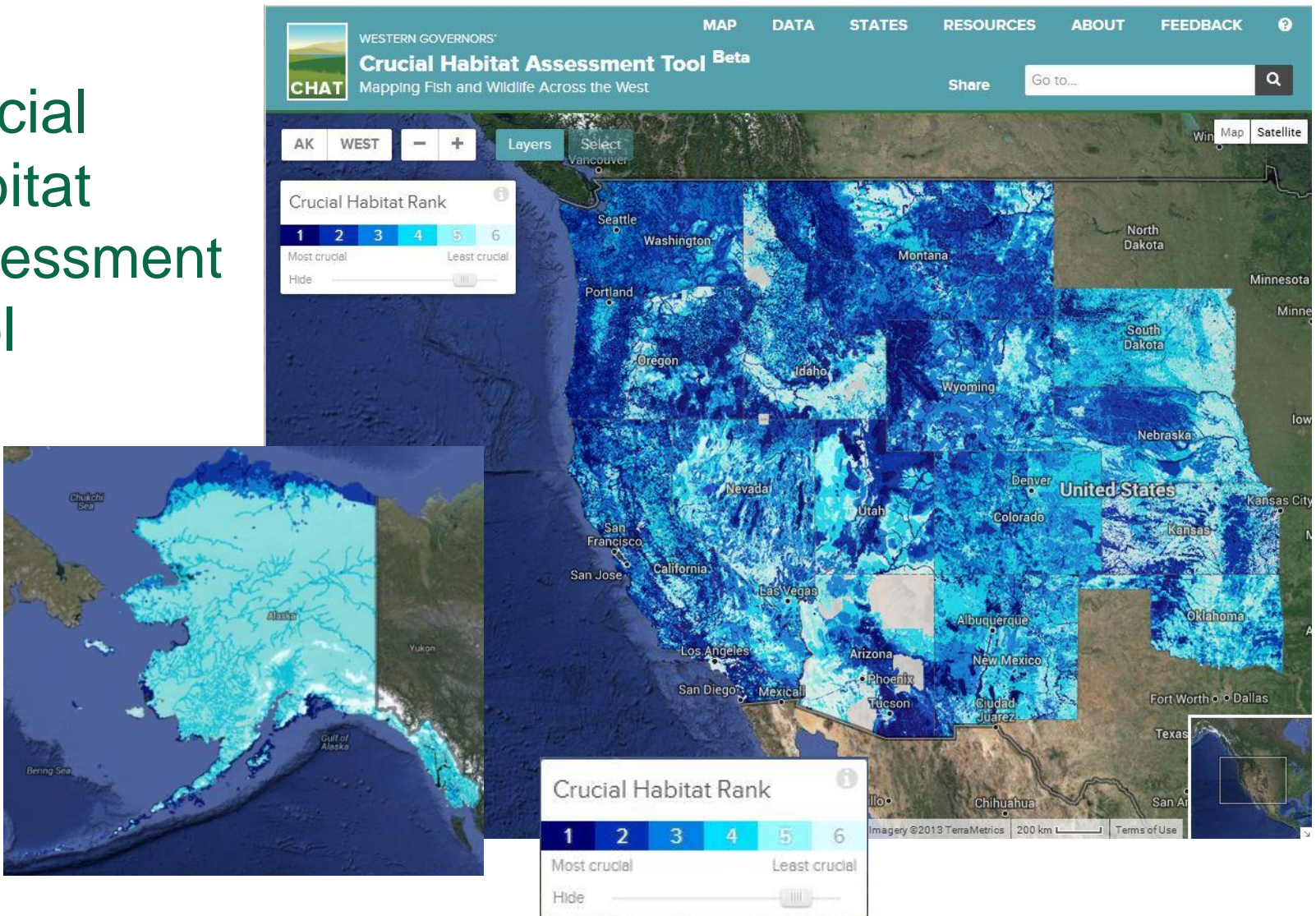


Photo credit: Jeff Burrell/WCS

Western Governors' CHAT

Online at westgovchat.org

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For More Information

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